Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a stretched mechanical fastening web laminate comprising a thermoplastic web layer having two major surfaces, one of the major surfaces bearing a multitude of male fastening elements suitable for engagement with a corresponding female fastening material, and on its other major surface a fibrous web layer, said method comprising the steps of

(i) providing the fibrous web layer having an initial basis weight, wherein the fibrous web layer comprises one or more nonwoven materials,

(ii) passing the fibrous web layer through a nip formed by two rolls, one of them having cavities that are negatives of a plurality of male fastening elements; introducing a molten thermoplastic resin into the cavities in excess of an amount that would fill the cavities which excess forms the thermoplastic web layer, wherein a surface of the fibrous web layer is in continuous contact with the thermoplastic web layer; allowing the resin to at least partially solidify; and stripping of a precursor web laminate thus formed comprising the fibrous web layer and the thermoplastic web layer bearing the multitude of male fastening elements from the roll having cavities, wherein the thermoplastic web layer has an initial thickness and an initial density of male fastening elements, and

(iii) stretching the precursor web laminate monoaxially or biaxially thereby decreasing the basis weight of the fibrous web layer and the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer from their respective initial values to provide a stretched mechanical fastening laminate having a basis weight of less than 100 g/m^2.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a stretched mechanical fastening web laminate comprising a thermoplastic web layer having two major surfaces, one of the major surfaces bearing a multitude of male fastening elements suitable for engagement with a

corresponding female fastening material, and on its other major surface a fibrous web layer, said method comprising the steps of

(i) extruding the thermoplastic web layer bearing on one major surface a plurality of elongate spaced ribs in a machine direction with the cross-sectional shape of the ribs essentially corresponding to the cross-sectional shape of the male fastening elements to be formed, wherein the thermoplastic web layer has an initial thickness,

(ii) providing the fibrous web layer having an initial basis weight, wherein the fibrous web layer comprises one or more nonwoven materials,

(iii) extrusion-laminating the fibrous web layer such that a surface of the fibrous web layer is in continuous contact with the major surface of the thermoplastic web layer opposite to the major surface bearing the elongate spaced ribs, thus providing a precursor web laminate,

(iv) slitting the ribs in a cross-direction at spaced locations to form discrete portions of the ribs in the cross-direction with a length in the direction of the ribs essentially corresponding to a desired length of the male fastening elements to be formed, and stretching the precursor web laminate monoaxially or biaxially thereby decreasing the basis weight of the fibrous web layer and the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer from their respective initial values to provide a stretched mechanical fastening laminate having a basis weight of less than 100 g/m^2.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the male fastening elements are subjected prior to or after stretching to thermal, mechanical or radiation energy.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~5~~1, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web layer is made by airlaying, spunbonding, spunlacing, bonding of melt blown webs or bonding of carded webs.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~5~~1, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web layer comprises a plurality of filaments comprising at least one of natural fibers, spun yarn fibers, fibers of nylon, polyamides, polyesters or polyolefins, core-sheath bicomponent fibers, or monocomponent fibers.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the filaments of the fibrous nonwoven web layer exhibit an average titer from 0.5 to 10 dtex.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the initial density of male fastening elements of the precursor web laminate is between 10 and 5,000 per cm^2.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the initial thickness of the thermoplastic web layer of the precursor web laminate is between 10 and 750 μm.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic web layer of the precursor web laminate comprises a thermoplastic polymer comprising polyesters, polyamides or polyolefins.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the male fastening elements of the precursor web laminate comprise a stem projecting from the surface of the thermoplastic web layer.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the stems of the male fastening elements of the precursor web laminate comprise an enlarged section which is positioned at their end opposite to the surface of the thermoplastic web layer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the enlarged sections form hooks, T's, J's or mushroom heads.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the precursor web laminate is stretched sequentially or simultaneously biaxially in a cross-direction and a machine direction so that a stretch ratio of the resulting stretched mechanical fastening laminate relative to the precursor web laminate in the cross-direction and the machine direction is, independently from each other, between 1.1 to 10:1.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the product of the stretch ratio in the machine direction times the stretch ratio in the cross-direction is between 2:1 and 35:1.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the precursor web laminate is simultaneously biaxially stretched in a flat film tenter stretching apparatus.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the fibrous web layer comprised in the stretched mechanical fastening laminate has a basis weight of from 1 to 30 g/m^2.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein a ratio of the initial basis weight of the fibrous web layer to the basis weight of the fibrous web layer comprised in the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate is between 3 and 40.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the stretched thermoplastic web layer has a thickness of between 5 and 25 μm.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein a ratio of the initial thickness of the thermoplastic web layer of the precursor web laminate to the thickness of

the thermoplastic web layer of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate is between 3 and 40.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the density of the male fastening elements of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate is between 1 and 2,500 per cm^2.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the density of the male fastening elements of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate is between 2 and 200 per cm^2.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate exhibits a tensile strength in the machine direction as measured according to DIN EN ISO 527 of at least 15 N/25mm.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein portions of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate are obtained by cutting it in the cross-direction.

28-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous web layer has an initial basis weight of between 10 and 400 g/m^2.

35. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein precursor web laminate is stretched monoaxially in a machine-direction or a cross-direction so that a stretch ratio of the resulting stretched mechanical fastening laminate relative to the precursor web laminate is between 1.5:1 to 10:1.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein monoaxially stretching is obtained by passing the precursor web laminate in the machine direction over rollers of increasing speed.

37. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate exhibits a tensile strength at break that is higher than a tensile strength at break of a comparable thermoplastic web layer having a basis weight and a stretch ratio that are the same as the basis weight and stretch ratio of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the tensile strength at break of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate is at least 10 percent higher than the tensile strength of the comparable thermoplastic web layer.

39. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous web layer is a spunbond or melt blown nonwoven material.

40. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate exhibits a tensile strength at break that is higher than a tensile strength at break of a comparable thermoplastic web layer having a basis weight and a stretch ratio that are the same as the basis weight and stretch ratio of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate.

41. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fibrous web layer is a spunbond or melt blown nonwoven material.